

REMARKS:Status

After entry of this response, claims 1-15, 18-34, 37-43, 45, 57, 59, 60, 62, 74-77, 79, and 91 will be pending. Claims 1, 21, 40, 57, 74 and 91 are the independent claims and have been amended. Claim 62 also has been amended, and claim 61 has been canceled. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Rejections

All pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,088,803 (Tso) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,721,721 (Bates).

Discussion

All pending independent claims have been amended to recite, in various forms, virus scanning using a “combination of vendors’ products.” This feature is disclosed at page 14, lines 1 to 5, of the application as filed.

The cluster-based approach to virus scanning taught in the application is particularly suited to this scanning with a combination of vendors’ products. For example, each device in the cluster could implement one of the vendors’ products. Alternatively, a single device could implement a combination of vendors’ products.

While one vendor's product might miss a virus, another vendor's product might catch that same virus. Thus, the claimed approach can improve chances of catching viruses, in particular more complex or sophisticated viruses.

Applicant notes that some of the independent claims do not recite use of a processing cluster. Those claims are intended to encompass both use of a processing cluster and use of other hardware/software configuration.

Neither Tso nor Bates is seen by Applicant to teach virus scanning using a combination of vendors' products. Thus, the amended claims are believed to be allowable over the applied art. Such an indication is respectfully requested.

Closing

Entry of this response and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney can be reached at (614) 205-3241. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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